GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2282
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert public call offices into public information centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said centres are likely to be made available?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NTP`99 envisages the conversion of PCOs, wherever justified, into Public Tele-infoCentre (PTICs) having multi-media capability like ISDN services, remote database access, Government & Community Information Systems, etc. The field units have been instructed to start upgradation of the existing Departmental PCOs/DTOs/CTOs & Telecom Centres as PTICswherever feasible, and also to provide the required telecom resources on priority to the privately owned STD/ISD/ PCOs for upgradation as PTICs.

(c) The conversion of PCOs into Public Tele-info centres is an ongoing process and isbeing encouraged by providing required Telecom resources on priority. However, Govt. have decided to encourage the setting up of Internet Dhabas in all Block HQs in the country by 31st March, 2001. For these Internet Dhabas, free internet access has been permitted in theRural Block HQs whereas for the Urban Block HQs, free Internet access for 1500 hrs. per annum has been permitted.